

News Release: Johnny Appleseed Is Coming!

26Sep07 For Immediate Release

Good news: John Chapman, a.k.a. **Johnny Appleseed**, is coming to the Union Project, N. Negley and Stanton Aves, Highland Park, Pittsburgh on Saturday, November 10th, 2007 at 11 AM. He has some stories to tell and some apple seedlings to sell. He plans to tell you something about how he got started, where he has been, and where he hopes to be going. John loves good company. That is why I know he will be pleased to see you there.

John Chapman first came to Ohio right around the end of the eighteenth century. He planted his seeds in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Virginia (West Virginia today), Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois. He preached a non-violent message in a violent time. He was a friend of the Indians, the children, and all the people moving west. His apple seedlings helped the new arrivals develop the land, pay their taxes, and earn “permanency.” Be prepared to participate as he tells some truth and some tall tale fiction about his life journey west.

Without a doubt, John was an eccentric. The pot may be a myth but his big heart is a fact. His good cheer, funny stories, and a lifetime of helping others make him a hero for all times. History is always discriminatory. It leaves out a lot of worthy people. The fact that Johnny is remembered so fondly by so many after so much time says a lot about our culture and our values today.

Hank Fincken will be Johnny. He has performed as John Chapman over one thousand times, starting in 1982, traveling throughout the country and even in South America. He has the endorsement of The Johnny Appleseed Foundation and has been part of the Ohio Humanities Council’s summer Chautauqua these past two summers.